

Lesson
1

What Is a Verb?

Teaching

A **verb** is a word used to express an action, a condition, or a state of being. The two main kinds of verbs are action verbs and linking verbs. Both kinds can be appear with helping verbs

An **action verb** tells what the subject does. The action may be physical or mental.

She **rides** motorcycles. (physical action) I **prefer** a bike. (mental action)

A **linking verb** links the subject of the sentence to a word in the predicate. The most common linking verbs are forms of the verb *be*, as in *We **are** late.*

Linking Verbs	Sample Verbs
Forms of be	be, is, am, are, was, were, been, being
Verbs that express condition	look, smell, feel, sound, taste, grow, appear, become, seem

Some verbs may act either as action verbs or as linking verbs.

She **smells** the perfume. (action) It **smells** flowery. (linking)

Helping verbs help the main verb express action or show time. They are combined with the main verbs to form verb phrases.

He **has planted** the crops. (The helping verb is **has**. The main verb is **planted**.)

A few verbs can serve as either helping verbs or main verbs.

He **has** a tractor. (The main verb is **has**.)

Common Helping Verbs	
Forms of have: has, have, had	Forms of be: be, am, is, are, was, were, been, being
Forms of do: do, does, did	Others: could, should, would, may, might, must, can, shall, will

Identifying Verbs

Underline the verb or verb phrase in each sentence. On the line to the right, label the verb with **A** for action or **L** for linking.

- The subway travels at fast speeds under the ground. _____
- During rush hour, the subway trains become quite crowded. _____
- The subway driver controls the trains. _____
- Some subways are over the ground. _____
- The trains stay on their train tracks at all times. _____
- Subways cause less air pollution than do automobiles. _____
- However, subways sound very loud to nearby onlookers. _____
- I ride the subway often. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Verbs

Underline the verb or verb phrase in each sentence. On the line to the right, label the verb with **A** for action or **L** for linking.

1. Mail travels overseas on airplanes. _____
2. Mail also can go overseas by boats. _____
3. Boats are slower but less expensive. _____
4. Most people send their mail overseas by airplane. _____
5. Boats might take weeks for the trip across the ocean. _____
6. Boats were once the only form of transportation across the ocean. _____
7. The post office can use trucks, trains, and planes to move mail. _____
8. In the past, horses have carried mail across the country. _____

B. Identifying Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

In Exercise A, find four sentences that use helping verbs. In each box below, write those sentence numbers and the parts of each verb phrase in the correct columns.

Helping Verb(s)	Main Verb	Helping Verb(s)	Main Verb
# _____	_____	# _____	_____
# _____	_____	# _____	_____

C. Using Verbs

In each sentence, replace the underlined verb with a more specific verb.

1. A hovercraft stays above the water surface on a layer of blown air.

2. Jumbo jets move at speeds of 550 miles per hour.

3. Animals, such as horses and camels, get people and goods over the land.

4. Robert Fulton made the first efficient steamboat, the *Clermont*.

**Lesson
1****What Is a Verb?***Application***A. Identifying and Replacing Verbs**

In each sentence, underline the verb or verb phrase. If the verb is an action verb, rewrite the sentence with another action verb. If the original verb is a linking verb, simply write **Linking**.

1. The Alaskan pipeline transports over two million barrels of oil per day.

2. Automobiles are the most popular mode of transportation today.

3. Europeans use trains more often than Americans do.

4. The rotation of rotor blades moves a helicopter.

5. All passengers in cars should wear their seat belts.

6. A tow truck has moved the broken-down car.

B. Using Verbs

On each line, write an action verb that makes sense in the sentence and paragraph. Underline every linking verb.

My uncle travels across the country often. He _____ different modes of transportation. He _____ his car sometimes, but only in good weather. Also, he _____ cars when he doesn't want to put too many miles on his own car. Often he _____ on airplanes for the longer journeys. However, for variety he _____ a ticket for the train. It's a more entertaining way to travel than the plane. Next time, he says, he will _____ either by boat or by helicopter.